

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). A method of scrambling a digital image comprising the steps of:

- (a) transforming respective values of pixels of said image into a plurality of arrays of transform coefficients each said array having at least one dimension oriented along an axis of packetization of said transform coefficients; and
- (b) selectively transposing at least one said transform coefficient with a said transform coefficient from a different said array, wherein every step by which a coefficient is transposed, transposes said coefficient in at least transposition of coefficients limited to a direction along an axis orthogonal to said axis of packetization.

2 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said transposed transform coefficients occupy corresponding positions in said at least two arrays.

3 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said transformed value of said image pixels is a luminance of said pixels.

4 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said transformed value of said image pixels is a chrominance of said pixels.

5 (original). The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of altering a value of a transposed transform coefficient.

6 (original). The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of altering a sign of a transposed transform coefficient if a value of said transform coefficient has a predefined relationship to a threshold value.

7 (currently amended). The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of selectively transposing at least one transform coefficient of at least two said arrays along an axis substantially parallel to an axis of packetization of said transform coefficients.

8 (currently amended). A method of scrambling a digital image comprising the steps of:

- (a) mapping a plurality of pixels of said image to a pixel block;
- (b) transforming respective values of said pixels of said pixel block into a plurality of arrays of transform coefficients each said array having at least one dimension oriented along an axis of packetization of said transform coefficients; and
- (c) selectively transposing at least one said transform coefficient with a said transform coefficient from a different array, wherein every step by which a coefficient is transposed, transposes said coefficient in at least transposition of coefficients limited to a direction along an axis orthogonal to said axis of packetization.

9 (original). The method of claim 8 wherein said transposed transform coefficients occupy corresponding positions in said at least two arrays.

10 (original). The method of claim 8 wherein a luminance value of said pixels is transformed to said array of transform coefficients.

11 (original). The method of claim 8 wherein a chrominance value of said pixels is transformed to said array of transform coefficients.

12 (original). The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of altering a value of said transposed transform coefficients.

13 (original). The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of altering a sign of a transposed transform coefficient if a value of said transform coefficient has a predefined relationship to a threshold value.

14 (currently amended). The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of selectively transposing at least one transform coefficient of at least two said arrays along an axis substantially parallel to an axis of packetization of said transform coefficients.

15 (currently amended). A method of scrambling a sequence of digital images comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting at least one said image for coding as a discrete image;
- (b) transforming respective values of said pixels of said discrete image to a plurality of arrays of transform coefficients;
- (c) selecting a plurality of said arrays arranged with respect to each other along a first axis of said image;
- (d) transposing selective one or more coefficients of a first of said selected arrays with selective one or more coefficients of a second of said selected arrays, wherein every step by which a coefficient is transposed, transposes said coefficient in at least transposition of coefficients limited to a direction along the direction of said first axis, and being identified by a cryptographic key; and
- (e) packetizing said coefficients of said plurality of arrays substantially along a second axis orthogonal to said first axis.

16 (original). The method of claim 15 wherein said coefficient of said second selected array occupies a same position in said second selected array as said replaced coefficient occupies in said first selected array.

17 (original). The method of claim 15 wherein a luminance representation of said pixels is transformed to said array of transform coefficients.

18 (original). The method of claim 15 wherein a chrominance representation of said pixels is transformed to said array of transform coefficients.

19 (original). The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of altering a value of coefficient of said second of said selected arrays.

20 (currently amended). The method of claim 15 wherein said selected plurality of arrays arranged ~~substantially~~ along a first axis of said image includes a first and a second pluralities of said arrays, said first and said second pluralities aligned with said first axis but displaced from each other along said second axis.

21 (currently amended). The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting at least one image for prediction from said discrete image;
- (b) determining a difference between said predicted image and said discrete image;
- (c) transforming pixels of said difference to a plurality of arrays of transform coefficients;
- (d) selecting a plurality said arrays arranged ~~substantially~~ along a first axis of said image;
- (e) replacing a coefficient of a first of said selected arrays with a coefficient of a second of said selected arrays, said coefficients of said first and said second arrays being identified by a cryptographic key; and
- (f) packetizing said coefficients of said plurality of arrays ~~substantially~~ along a second axis substantially orthogonal to said first axis.

22 (currently amended). An image encoder comprising:

- (a) a transform module to transform a plurality of image pixels to an array of transform coefficients;
- (b) a scrambling buffer storing a first array and a second array of transform coefficients, said first and said second arrays representing portions of said image pixels arrayed along a first axis orthogonal to an axis of packetization of said transform coefficients;
- (c) a scrambler selectively transposing one or more coefficient pairs between said first array and said second array, wherein every step by which a coefficient is transposed, transposes said coefficient in at least transposition limited to the direction of said first axis; and

- (d) a scrambling key identifying a coefficient of said first array for selective transposition to said second array by said scrambler.

23 (canceled).

24 (currently amended). A method of scrambling a digital image comprising the steps of:

- (a) transforming respective values of pixels of said image into a plurality of arrays of transform coefficients each said array having at least one dimension oriented along an axis of packetization of said transform coefficients; and
- (b) selectively transposing at least one said transform coefficient with a said transform coefficient from a different said array, wherein every step by which a coefficient is transposed, transposes said coefficient in at least transposition of coefficients limited to a direction different from that of said axis of packetization.